Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A chromatography column distribution system (101) comprising:

a set of first bed support ribs (107) extending radially from an inner, first radial position (R1) near the ~~centre~~ center of ~~the~~ a plate to an outer radial position nearer to the periphery (109) of the plate and at least one set of intermediate bed support ribs (117, 119) starting at an intermediate radial position (R2, R3) and extending to an outer radial position nearer to the periphery (109) of the plate (101);

the first bed support rib (107) having an elongated rib body (111);

whereby channels (113) are formed between at least one set of adjacent bed support ribs (107, 117, 119);

wherein ~~a width of~~ the elongated rib body (111) of said first bed support rib (107) ~~is adapted to the intermediate bed support rib (117) at a position along a length of the elongated rib body (111) that is adjacent to a tapered portion 116 of the intermediate bed support rib (117) or the intermediate bed support rib (119)~~ has a front portion that extends from the first radial position (R1) near the center of the plate and a back portion of the elongated rib body (111) that extends to the outer

radial position nearer to the periphery (109), wherein the elongated rib body (111) has at least one tapered middle portion positioned near an intermediate radial position (R2, R3) characterized by the rib width of the elongated rib body (111) in the tapered middle portion being smaller than a maximum width of said rib body in the front portion and being smaller than a maximum width of the rib body in the end portion.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The chromatography column distribution system (101) of claim 1, wherein the transverse cross-sectional areas of said ribs (107, 117, 119) or said channels are adapted such that the actual local effective channel height is within 10% of the desired local effective channel height.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The chromatography column distribution system (101) of claim 1, wherein the transverse cross-sectional areas of said ribs (107, 117, 119) or said channels are adapted such that the actual local effective channel height is within 5% of the desired local effective channel height.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The chromatography column distribution system (101) of claim 1, wherein said local effective channel height varies inversely in proportion to the radial distance from (R1).

Claim 5 (previously presented): The chromatography column distribution system (101) of claim 1, wherein said bed support ribs (107, 117, 119) correspond to at least

90% of the distance between said first radial position (R1) and said outer radial position.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The chromatography column distribution system (101) of claim 1, wherein said bed support ribs (107, 117, 119) correspond to at least 95% of the distance between said first radial position (R1) and said outer radial position.

Claim 7 (new): The distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the rib width of said first bed support rib (107) in said tapered portion is smaller than a largest width of the adjacent intermediate bed support ribs (117, 119).